

Abstract

A system and method for the fast re-routing of data in a data communication network. A protection label path is formed between a base node and an end node wherein the protection path avoids an intermediate node between the base node and the end node. Availability of protection provided by the protection path is advertised within the network. A protected path is formed for communicating data, the protected path passing through the intermediate node. When a fault is detected in the network, the fault is avoided by using the protection path for communicating data. Thus, alternate paths are defined for bypassing entire network nodes. As such, the protection paths allow data to be re-routed so as to avoid failed network nodes as well as failed network links.